

REMARKS

This is in full response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004 on the merits in the above-identified patent application.

Pursuant to the outstanding Office Action, applicant's original claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wells, Jr. No. 3,245,495.

Further, applicant's original claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber, No. 2,820,678 in view of Piltingsrud No. 3,071,204.

The Examiner has indicated that there is allowable subject matter in the Application. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8 are allowable over the prior art of record. In response to the outstanding Office Action, Applicant has amended original claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of original claim 6-8. Accordingly, original claims 6-8, as well as claim 5, have been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant's amended claim 1, which includes the allowable subject matter of cancelled claims 6-8, patentably defines over the prior art of record and is allowable. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining dependent claims 2-4 are allowable, as they depend from allowable base claim 1.

Applicant submits new claims 9-13, including new independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-13. Applicant's new independent claim 9 includes

the allowable subject matter of original claims 6-8 and, accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the prior art of record. Further, new claims 10-13, which depend from claim 9, are deemed to be allowable.

For the reasons advanced above, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's claims, as now amended, are in condition for allowance.

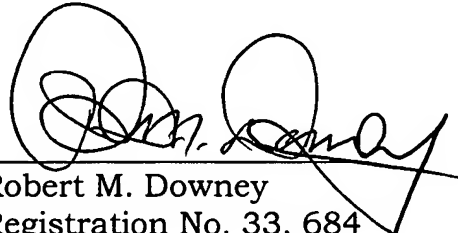
Since nowhere in the art is applicant's invention, as now claimed, to be found, taught or suggested, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

For all of the reasons advanced above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the claims as now presented, and to pass this case to early favorable allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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